

To hear his friends and family tell it, Smith was a friendly, outgoing man who never ran out of time for the people who voted him into office.

"If somebody needed help with a traffic light or a pothole or barking dogs, he would go out and visit them," his son, Harry Smith, said on Monday afternoon. "He would be able to get things done for people."

Harry said his father died "just peacefully, and calmly, and in his own way."

With a nostalgic laugh, he told of his father's intricate jokes:

"They are so long and complex that I—unfortunately, one of the things I had intended to do and never was able to do was to memorize those jokes. And I wish that I had."

In addition to a list of complex jokes only Harrington could remember, the veteran supervisor left a family that included his wife, Barbara Armistead Smith; sons Harry and Michael Smith and Drury Armistead; daughter Beth; and nine grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 23.

"He had a phenomenal memory for jokes," Dick Kern, an old friend and Harrington's former employer, said on Monday. "His favorite saying was 'God love you.' And he said that all the time."

Kern stifled a chuckle before describing a man fond of parties and a good time.

"He loved a good rum drink," Kern said. "He enjoyed drinking and relaxing and I did, too. So we were great partners."

Party animal or not, Harrington "Smitty" Smith took care of his constituents, Kern said.

"If anybody called him on a road or a fence or any kind of problem, he made it a point to go out and check it himself and take care of the problem," said Kern, a former Winchester City Council member. "And I guess that was another thing I liked about him . . . he was honest and you could rely on him, and you knew he would be there."

"He was a heck of a guy."

Harrington's wife, Barbara, said her husband would do just about anything for just about anybody.

In fact, that's how they met.

"Harrington was part of a local rescue squad bringing a psychiatric patient to the old Cork Street hospital emergency room," she said. "And the patient jumped out the back towards these two women and Harrington tackled him, and the guy wound around and kicked him in the neck."

Barbara had just come to the hospital as a physical therapist. Harrington became her patient.

"Yeah, I cured him, so he married me," she said with a laugh. "At the time, he was just so outstandingly good-looking. And everybody liked him because he was such a good listener and he really, really, really loved people. He really did."

Harry, who served on the Winchester City Council, said he always was amazed at how long his father stayed in public service.

"I wonder what impact he might have had if he had started in elected office, say in his 30s or 40s instead of his 60s," he said. "I think it was always centered around and based around his love of this community."

Harrington Smith the supervisor had a persona most people couldn't figure out.

During his time in office, he switched from Republican to Democrat before becoming an independent.

"I was always surprised by his votes," former Supervisor Sidney "Sid" Reyes said. "I never knew which way he was going to come."

"But he was a gentleman. The ultimate gentleman, I don't think Harrington Smith had an enemy or anyone who spoke ill of him."

The man the public didn't get to see was a little less of an enigma, Harry said.

"If he wasn't out helping constituents, he was probably watching television, sitting on a couch, eating a grilled-cheese sandwich, with his feet propped up, his arm propped up on a pillow, and the cat in his lap," Harry said. "He was a channel flicker. Anywhere from a sports to movies to the History Channel. And it had to be turned up very loud."

Like the volume on him TV set, whenever Harrington had an idea, he put it out with force—especially when it came to state government controlling local decisions.

"You could always count on Harrington with a speech any time the subject came up," Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard C. Shickle said. "He just stated his opinion and didn't pull any punches. . . . You didn't have any trouble understanding Harrington or his positions. He was just blunt."

Frederick County Commonwealth's Attorney Lawrence R. Ambrogi called Harrington Smith "outgoing," "personable," and "unique."

"He was one-of-a-kind, Ambrogi said. "He was 78, he probably put in 200 years of life in that time."

"He sang the national anthem at different political functions, he was an announcer at the (stock car) racetrack."

"It's just sad because he'll never be replaced."

Still, Shawnee residents can't go without representation on the Board of Supervisors.

Ambrogi said the board has 45 days to appoint Harrington's replacement because the next election is less than 120 days away.

Shickle and Ambrogi said the county needs time to grieve before worrying about that, though.

"I lost a friend," Shickle said. "And I think we'll mourn first."

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF RAPIDES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Rapides Habitat for Humanity on fifteen years of successful service in Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

I rise today to recognize Rapides Parish Habitat for Humanity on its fifteenth anniversary. Rapides Parish is blessed to have such a successful organization with so many dedicated workers and volunteers building a better future. I am proud to report that with the help of over 1,000 volunteers, sixty-seven houses have been built in the surrounding area with two under construction. Now, because of the work of these driven people, over 250 people have sturdy roofs over their heads.

The work of these volunteers led a little girl to exclaim with delight, "Now I can have a slumber party!" Families can now gather around a dining room table to celebrate the holidays, and children can sleep in warm beds rather than on the floor.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend, honor and thank Rapides Parish Habitat for Humanity. I look forward to the continuous progress that will be made by these hard-working and passionate volunteers.

THANKING MICHAELS OF OREGON

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to relate an inspiring story of support from the people of Idaho, from a community in my district, for our brave troops being deployed to Iraq.

On August 17, I had the opportunity to visit with some of my constituents at a business in the community of Meridian. The Michaels of Oregon plant in Meridian is a quality manufacturer of gun cleaners, holsters and related equipment for law enforcement personnel and other first responders.

During my tour, General Manufacturing Manager Brian Schroeder handed me a manila envelope. It turns out the employees knew I would be coming out to the plant, so they took up a collection and asked that I get the money in that envelope to the USO to help our troops in the Idaho National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade.

As I walked through the plant, I also met Michaels employee Sandra Zimmer, whose son had just returned from Kuwait, and Michelle Carskaddon, whose father was in Iraq. Everyone I met wanted me to pass on to our men and women in uniform just how proud they are of our troops and how proud they are to be Americans.

Let me tell you, I never had a more meaningful visit, and I was never prouder to be an Idahoan. But the thing is, the folks at Michaels are not unique. Meridian, Idaho—like communities all across America—is filled with individuals who care about each other, care about those who serve in our Armed Forces, and care about our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and privilege to represent people like that here in the United States House of Representatives. Please join me in thanking the good people at Michaels of Oregon. They are to be commended for their citizenship, patriotism and generosity.

HONORING MRS. PEGI MILLER, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Pegi Miller, who will retire on October 1, 2004, after completing 20 years of Federal Service.

Mrs. Miller began her career in 1976 as a non-appropriated fund employee at the Bolling AFB Child Care Center, where she served as a Clerk/Receptionist until October 1984. She then moved to the Pentagon to work for the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of the General Counsel, for a short time. Mrs. Miller served next in the Office of the Air Force Civil Engineer until 1987, when she assumed her current duties as a Legislative Assistant in the Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Directorate. In this capacity, Mrs. Miller performed superbly across a broad spectrum of